

IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday August 20th, 2023

IRTS SSB Field Day

The IRTS SSB Field Day will take from 13:00 UTC on Saturday September 2nd to 13:00 UTC on Sunday September 3rd. Activity will focus on SSB phone contacts in the 3.5, 7, 14, 21 and 28 MHz bands. Operators can choose to enter the open or restricted sections and further details may be found at www.irts.ie/contests

Southern Ireland Repeater Group EI2SIRG

The Southern Ireland Repeater Group report that Thursday August 10th recently marked the twentieth anniversary of the installation of the two-metre repeater EI2HHR at Helvick Head in Co. Waterford. The original installation consisting of a Motorola MC Compact repeater, two Sigma Cat-150 antennas fed with LDF5-50 Heliax cable, was built by Neil EI3JE and licenced by East Cork Radio Group as EI2ECR (East Cork Repeater). It was installed on the site at Faha Co. Waterford by members of East Cork and South Eastern Amateur Radio Groups. On site for the installation were John EI8JA, Neil EI3JE, Jerry EI6BT, Jim EI8IG, Nicky EI3JB, Eoin EI7FXB and Jim EI8GS and was the beginning of what is now the Southern Ireland Repeater Network. The repeater is now owned by the Southern Ireland Repeater Group and licenced as EI2HHR and uses a Motorola MTR2000 repeater into one Sigma Cat-150 antenna.

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group EI2WRC

The South Eastern Amateur Radio Group, EI2WRC, will once again activate Hook Lighthouse ILLW Ref: IE0003 today Sunday the 20th of August as part of the 26th International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend. For more info, please see www.illw.net On the 2nd and 3rd of September, Seany, Shirley, Keith and the entire EI2WRC team extend a very warm “céad míle fáilte” to both friends old and new to come to Bagenalstown for a fun day out as part of the IRTS SSB Field Day Contest which takes place that weekend. Although the weekend is the SSB Field Day Contest, it will be a very social weekend and a chance to catch up with friends. Drop by for a cup of tea and a chat. Everyone is very welcome. More details to follow soon. To find out more about EI2WRC, their activities, and contact details please see www.searg.ie

Limerick Clare Amateur Radio Club

The Limerick Clare Amateur Radio Club reports that they activated Loop Head Lighthouse (ILLW Reference IE0009) on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th August as part of the 26th International Lighthouse and Lightships Weekend. Loop Head Lighthouse is located on the

West Coast of Ireland in County Clare. There has been a lighthouse there since 1670, with the current tower dating from 1854. This was a very successful outing with the club members operating two stations across all amateur frequencies and generating a substantial number of QSOs. The club worked closely with Clare County Council and the Commissioners of Irish Lights to ensure the smooth running of the activation and we appreciate the positive contribution of all the officials concerned. Overall, the activation generated a significant amount of interest and publicity for the event, for the Loop Head Experience and for amateur radio in general. In the build up to the event, the Club Chairman, Dermot Gleeson EI2GT, was interviewed on the Sean Moncrief Show on Newstalk Radio and there was excellent feedback on this. The club appreciates also the extensive coverage of the event in the local media.

Collective Communication Update

Keith EI5KJ reports that the very first meeting of Collective Communication took place during the September 2022 SSB field day event at Kilmurrin Cove Waterford, and that's exactly where EI3CC will be celebrating their first birthday. The club has progressed from humble beginnings, and they are proud to claim their efforts have harvested good, positive results. Collective Communication invite you to join them in person or on-air for this year's SSB field day. They love meeting friends who share their philosophy of promoting amateur radio in Ireland. Keith continues with an invitation to come and join them for a cup of tea and a slice of birthday cake on the 2nd or 3rd of September. If you can't make it to the SSB field day, the club will be at Stradbally Hall, Co. Laois for Railways on the Air during the weekend of 23rd & 24th September. You are invited to put those dates in your diary and join the guys doing their best to increase awareness of this glorious and varied hobby.

Shannon Basin Radio Club Meeting

The next meeting of Shannon Basin Radio Club will be held on Friday August 25th in Hannon's Hotel, Roscommon town. The meeting will start at 8p.m. All are welcome, especially shortwave listeners, anyone preparing for the HAREC exams, and newcomers to the hobby. Further information about Shannon Basin Radio Club can be found at www.sbrc.ie and via their social media channels.

Calling All Constructors

We are fortunate in Ireland to have a wide range of operators and SWLs with a very diverse range of technical skills across the spectrum from valves and vintage equipment right through to modern day software radio. If you are a homebrew equipment constructor, a programmer, software-defined radio enthusiast, antenna builder, or just enjoy tinkering with amateur radio-related equipment, we would like to hear from you and the projects you are working on. The hope is help make the connections to share knowledge and expertise, in

addition to identifying possible opportunities for collaboration. If you are interested, please contact construction /at/ irts.ie and/or post on the IRTS email group which can be found at groups.io/g/IRTS.

AMSAT-UK 2023 Colloquium

Amateur Satellite operators may be interested to know that AMSAT-UK will hold their 2023 conference alongside the RSGB Convention at Kents Hill Park Conference Centre, Milton Keynes, U.K. on the weekend of 14th and 15th October 2023. The programme of events, which will include presentations on satellite and space topics, has not been published at the time of compiling this news, but you can monitor amsat-uk.org for updates.

IARU Region 1 Monitoring System Newsletter

The July edition of the IARU Region 1 Monitoring System has been published. This edition includes a report regarding the successful resolution of a case. A transmitter undergoing testing that is part of an international scientific radar network called the Super Dual Auroral Radar Network was operating in the 20m band. The report covers how it was detected and brought to a satisfactory conclusion. Michael Foertig EI3GYB is the IARU Region 1 coordinator for Ireland who provides input each month regarding intruders detected on amateur radio bands. You can find July's newsletter via www.iaru-r1.org

Items for Inclusion in Next Week's Radio News

That is the news for this week. Items for inclusion in next week's radio news can be submitted by email to newsteam@irts.ie for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. The deadline is midnight on Thursday.

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